grow crops of Jatropha on unused waste land of Railways;

(b) if so, the total area of land earmarked for above use, till date;

(c) whether this land is being handed over for cultivation; and

(d) if so, the guidelines fixed for the same and the income likely to be accured to the railways therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir; Railways have been undertaking plantation including Jatropha on its land with a view to improve environment as well as protecting its land from encroachment. However, no separate railway land has been earmarked for undertaking plantation of Jatropha.

(c) and (d) Plantation on railway land is done departmentaly as well as under commercial Plantation Scheme. Under the scheme, Joint Venture (JV) partner is allowed to undertake plantation on railway land at its cost and the revenue so earned is shared by Railway with JV Partner on 50:50 basis. So far, one site at Jhusi on North Eastern Railway has been finalised for Jatropha plantation on this basis. Earning potential of the same has not been assessed so far.

Bomb blasts in Bombay trains

†518. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bomb blasts were taken place in the first class compartments of the trains running between several railway stations in Mumbai on 11th July, 2006;

(b) if so, the detailed information of this incident;

(c) whether Government have made any enquiry into this incident; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry report and the relief measures announced by the railways for injured and dead passengers?

---

†Originai notice of Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Between 18.20 hours to 18.35 hours, on 11.07.2006, 7 powerful bomb blasts took place in 1st Class Compartments of various EMU Local Trains in Mumbai sub-urban services as per following details:—

SI. No.	*Station*	*Train No.*	*Coach No.*
1	Bandra	Borivali 637	8003A
2	Khar-Santacruz	Borivali 635	649A
3	Jogeswari	Borivali 619	634A
4	Mahim	Borivali 641	528A
5	Mira Road	Virar 607	846A
6	Matnga	Virar 645	865A
7	Borivali	Virar 621	935A

184 persons lost their lives and 835 got injured in these incidents as per the information available on 25.7.2006. Among the injured, 372 persons were discharged after rendering first-aid, 206 persons sustained simple injuries and 257 persons were grievously injured. Injured persons were admitted in Cooper, Bhagwati, Bandra Bhabha, Sion, KEM, Temba and other hospitals for treatment. Relief and rescue work was started on war footing with the help of Railway Administration,' State Administration and local persons.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle, Mumbai belonging to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, while conducting statutory inquiry into the above incidents under section 114 of the Railways Act, 1989, has submitted his preliminary report on 26.7.2006 as per which act of "Sabotage" has been given as the provisional cause.

Considering seriousness of the incidents, Minister of Railways announced *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 5 lakhs for the next kith and kin of the dead persons. One dependent family member of the dead person will be offered job in the Railways. *Ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 50,000/-has been announced to each of the grievously injured persons and

Rs. 10,000/- to each of those with simple injuries.

Competitiveness of Indian Railways

†519. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that working of Indian Railways is required to be proficient and efficient so that it could be compared successfully with the foreign railway services;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that freight charges in Indian Railways are 66 per cent more in comparison to Chinese Railways; and

(d) if so, the time limit fixed by the Government to make railways services at par with the international services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir, The Indian Railways is performing efficiently and compares successfully with foreign railway services.

(b) The freight charges pertaining to foreign railways including Chinese Railways are not maintained in Ministry of Railways.

(c) Does not arise.

Implementation of unigauge policy

520. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government invested huge amount in the unigauge policy during the last decade;

(b) if so, the total kilometers which have been brought under unigauge since 2002;

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) whether Railways have derived benefits from the policy; and

†Originai notice of Question was received in Hindi.